

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-10 and ADD new claim 11 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search system comprising:
an information storage unit which stores personal information with respect to each of a plurality of users and a plurality of pieces of search target information;
a searching unit which searches, when a ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user specifies a search condition, for a piece of search target information satisfying the search condition from ~~plural~~ the pieces of search target information in the information storage unit, and stores information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user into the information storage unit;
a calculating unit which calculates a fitting value indicating how much the search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information searched by said searching unit in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user; and
a result-of-search presenting unit which presents, to the ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information; and
an outputting unit which outputs, when a piece of search target information is specified, the personal information on each user by whom the piece of search target information is searched based on the pieces of information stored in the information storage unit.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search system comprising:
an information storage unit which stores personal information with respect to each of a plurality of users and a plurality of pieces of search target information;

a calculating unit which calculates, when a ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user specifies a search condition, a fitting value indicating how much search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information in the information storage unit in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user;

an extracting unit for extracting the search target information of which the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit satisfies a predetermined condition, out of the plural pieces of search target information in the information storage unit, and stores information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user into the information storage unit; and

a result-of-search presenting unit which presents, to the ~~desire-for-search-party~~ user, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information extracted by said extracting unit together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information; and

an outputting unit which outputs, when a piece of search target information is specified, the personal information on each user by whom the piece of search target information is searched based on the pieces of information stored in the information storage unit.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search system comprising:

~~a defining information storage module stored with~~ an information storage unit which stores personal information with respect to each of a plurality of users, a plurality of pieces of search target information, search condition defining information for defining a search condition with respect to each of ~~a plurality of search permission parties~~ the plurality of users, and fitting value calculation procedure defining information for defining a procedure for calculating a fitting value indicating how much the information searched under the search condition defined by the search condition defining information satisfies the search condition;

a searching unit which searches, when a predetermined indication is given from any one of the plurality of ~~search permission parties~~ users, for the search target information in the information storage unit that satisfies the search condition defined by the search condition defining information stored in said ~~defining information storage module~~ information storage unit with respect to ~~the search permission party~~ one of the users having given the predetermined indication out of the plural pieces of search target information in the information storage unit, and which stores information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the one of the users into said information storage unit;

a calculating unit which calculates the fitting value indicating how much each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit satisfies the search condition used for searching for the search target information in the procedure defined by the fitting value calculation procedure defining information stored in said ~~search condition storage module~~ information storage unit with respect to the search permission party having given the predetermined indication; ~~and~~

a result-of-search presenting unit which presents, to the ~~search permission party~~ one of the users, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information; and

an outputting unit which outputs, when a piece of search target information is specified, the personal information on each user by whom the piece of search target information is searched based on pieces of information stored in the information storage unit.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search system according to claim 3, ~~further comprising: wherein the calculating unit stores each calculated fitting value as a fitting value of a corresponding piece of search target information for the user into the information storage unit, and~~

~~a second calculating unit which calculates, when the search target information to be processed is given, the fitting value indicating how much the search target information to be processed satisfies the search condition stored in said defining information storage module about the search permission party with respect to each of the plurality of search permission parties in the procedure defined by the fitting value calculation procedure stored in said defining information storage module with respect to that search permission party; and~~

~~a result-of-search output unit for outputting, to each of the plurality of the search permission parties, the information on this search permission party and the fitting value calculated by said second calculating unit with respect to this search permission party.~~

the outputting unit outputs the personal information on each user by whom the piece of search target information is searched together with the fitting value of the piece of search target information for each user.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search system according to claim 3, wherein the plural pieces of search target information contain first type search target information permitted to be browsed by the ~~search permission party~~ one of the users, and second type search target information inhibited to be browsed by the ~~search permission party~~ one of the users,

said searching unit searches for the search target information from the first type search target information contained in the plural pieces of search target information, and

said information search system further comprises:

a second calculating unit which calculates, when the search target information to be processed is given, the fitting value indicating how much the second type search target information to be processed satisfies the search condition stored in said ~~defining information storage module~~ information storage unit about the ~~search permission party~~ one of the users with respect to each of the plurality of ~~search permission parties~~ users in the procedure defined by the fitting value calculation procedure stored in said ~~defining information storage module~~ information storage unit with respect to ~~that search permission party~~ the one of the users; and

a result-of-search output unit for outputting, to each of the plurality of the ~~search permission parties~~ users, the information on ~~this search permission party~~ the one of the users and the fitting value calculated by said second calculating unit with respect to ~~this search permission party~~ the one of the users.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search method comprising:
storing personal information about each of a plurality of users and a plurality of search target information;

~~a searching step of searching~~, when a ~~desire for search party~~ user specifies a search condition, for a piece of search target information satisfying the search condition from ~~plural the~~ pieces of search target information;

storing information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user;

~~a calculating step of calculating~~ a fitting value indicating how much the search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information searched in said searching ~~step~~ in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire for search party~~ user; and

~~a result of search presenting step of presenting~~, to the ~~desire for search party user~~, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched in said searching ~~step~~ together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information; and

outputting the personal information about each user by whom the piece of search target information is search based on the stored pieces of information, when the piece of search target information is specified.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information search method comprising:
storing personal information about each of a plurality of users and a plurality of search target information;

~~a calculating step of calculating~~, when a ~~desire for search party user~~ specifies a search condition, a fitting value indicating how much search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire for search party user~~;

~~an extracting step of extracting~~ the search target information of which the fitting value calculated in said calculating ~~step~~ satisfies a predetermined condition, out of the plural pieces of search target information; and

storing information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user;

~~a result of search presenting step of for presenting~~, to the ~~desire for search party user~~, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information extracted in said extracting ~~step~~ together with the fitting value calculated in said calculating ~~step~~ with respect to that piece of search target information; and

outputting the personal information about each user by whom the piece of search target information is search based on the stored pieces of information, when the piece of search target information is specified.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program for making a computer execute:
storing personal information about each of a plurality of users and a plurality of search target information;

~~a searching step of searching~~, when a ~~desire for search party user~~ specifies a search condition, for a piece of search target information satisfying the search condition from ~~plural the~~ pieces of search target information;

storing information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user;

~~a calculating step of~~ calculating a fitting value indicating how much the search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information searched in said searching ~~step~~ in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire for search party user~~; and

~~a result of search presenting step of~~ presenting, to the ~~desire for search party user~~, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched in said searching ~~step~~ together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating ~~unit~~ with respect to that piece of search target information; and

outputting the personal information about each user by whom the piece of search target information is search based on the stored pieces of information, when the piece of search target information is specified.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program for making a computer execute:

storing personal information about each of a plurality of users and a plurality of search target information;

~~a calculating step of~~ calculating, when a ~~desire for search party user~~ specifies a search condition, a fitting value indicating how much search target information satisfies the search condition about the respective pieces of search target information in accordance with a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the ~~desire for search party user~~;

~~an extracting step of~~ extracting the search target information of which the fitting value calculated in said calculating ~~step~~ satisfies a predetermined condition, out of the plural pieces of search target information; and

storing information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the user;

~~a result of search presenting step of~~ for presenting, to the ~~desire for search party user~~, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information extracted in said extracting ~~step~~ together with the fitting value calculated in said calculating ~~step~~ with respect to that piece of search target information; and

outputting the personal information about each user by whom the piece of search target information is search based on the stored pieces of information, when the piece of search target information is specified.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program for making a computer function as an information search system comprising:

~~a defining information storage module stored with~~ an information storage unit which stores personal information with respect to each of a plurality of users, a plurality of pieces of search target information, search condition defining information for defining a search condition with respect to each of ~~a plurality of search permission parties~~ the plurality of users, and fitting value calculation procedure defining information for defining a procedure for calculating a fitting value indicating how much the information searched under the search condition defined by the search condition defining information satisfies the search condition;

a searching unit which searches, when a predetermined indication is given from any one of the plurality of ~~search permission parties~~ users, for the search target information in the information storage unit that satisfies the search condition defined by the search condition defining information stored in said ~~defining information storage module~~ information storage unit with respect to ~~the search permission party~~ one of the users having given the predetermined indication out of the plural pieces of search target information in the information storage unit, and which stores information indicating that the pieces of search target information are searched by the one of the users into said information storage unit;

a calculating unit which calculates the fitting value indicating how much each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit satisfies the search condition used for searching for the search target information in the procedure defined by the fitting value calculation procedure defining information stored in said ~~search condition storage module~~ information storage unit with respect to the search permission party having given the predetermined indication; and

a result-of-search presenting unit which presents, to the ~~search permission party~~ one of the users, at least a part of information that forms each piece of search target information searched by said searching unit together with the fitting value calculated by said calculating unit with respect to that piece of search target information; and

an outputting unit which outputs, when a piece of search target information is specified, the personal information on each user by whom the piece of search target information is searched based on pieces of information stored in the information storage unit.

11. (NEW) An information search system comprising:

an information storage unit which stores search target information and personal information about a user among a plurality of users;

a searching unit which searches the information storage unit for the search target information satisfying a search condition specified by the user, and which stores in the storage unit search record information that the user searched for the search target information;

a calculating unit which calculates a fitting value according to a fitting value calculation procedure specified by the user, the fitting value indicating a degree to which the search target information satisfies the search condition;

a presenting unit which presents at least a portion of the search target information and the fitting value corresponding to the search target information; and

an outputting unit which outputs the personal information for each of the users having a search record information corresponding to the presented search target information stored in the storage unit.